

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S CALL ON NEWSOM

1. ON JUNE 20 LTG ZAYD BIN SHAKER, JORDANIAN CINC, ALONG WITH JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR ABDULLAH SALAH AND DEFENSE ATTACHE BRIG KHALED, MET WITH UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM IN CONNECTION WITH MEETINGS OF U.S.-JORDAN JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (JMC).
 2. NEWSOM ASKED BIN SHAKER HOW THINGS LOOKED "ACROSS THE JORDAN". BIN SHAKER REPLIED THEY WERE NOT ENCOURAGING, AND SAID THAT JORDAN HAS SEEN NO SIGN OF ISRAELI WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT 242, JORDAN'S BASIC REQUIREMENT BEFORE IT WILL ENTER NEGOTIATIONS. BIN SHAKER STATED THAT JORDAN SEES MUCH MORE THAN JUST SADAT'S "PSYCHOLOGICAL" BARRIER PREVENTING JORDAN
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FROM ENTERING TALKS.

3. ASKED ABOUT SAUDI-JORDANIAN RELATIONS, BIN SHAKER SAID THAT THE KING'S VISIT WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD LAST MONTH WAS POSITIVE, AS SUCH TRIPS TO SAUDI ARABIA USUALLY ARE FOR HUSSEIN, BUT THAT THE FOLLOW-UP ON DECISIONS REACHED WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT. FINANCIALLY, BIN SHAKER SAID, THE SAG

WAS NOT AS FORTHCOMING AS JORDAN HAD HOPED. THE GENERAL INDICATED THAT THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SAUDI

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE JORDANIAN MILITARY HAVE CAUSED THE GOJ SOME EMBARRASSMENT, BUT THIS WAS A RESULT OF WORKING LEVEL PROBLEMS AND DID NOT REFLECT THE STATE

OF HIGHER LEVEL SAG-GOJ RELATIONS.

4. IN THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT FIELD BIN SHAKER RAISED TWO ISSUES: RELEASE OF F-16S AND STINGERS, BOTH, HE EMPHASIZED, WERE ESSENTIAL TO THE MODERNIZATION OF JORDAN'S MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SPECIFIC ANSWERS WERE NOT AVAILABLE NOW BUT ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING AN ANSWER "IN PRINCIPLE" ON RELEASE OF F-16S FOR FUTURE DELIVERY (HE MENTIONED 1983-4) AND STINGERS TO REPLACE THE REDEYE AS THE JAF PHASES LATTER OUT OF ITS INVENTORY. BIN SHAKER SAID THAT THE STINGERS' MOBILITY WAS VITAL, PARTICULARLY FOR DEFENSE IN THE EASTERN PART OF JORDAN, AND NOTED THAT THE I-HAWK SYSTEM WAS NOT MOBILE, HAVING BEEN EMPLACED IN PERMANENT POSITIONS.

5. NEWSOM RESPONDED THAT ON THE GENERAL QUESTION OF ARM, THE US IS ALWAYS SYMPATHETIC TO JORDAN'S LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS. IT IS HARD TO GET A DECISION AT THIS

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POINT ON F-16S, WHILE WE ARE INVOLVED IN COMPLETING JORDAN'S F-5 PROGRAM. HE ADDED THAT ONE MORE ARMS PACKAGE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AT THIS TIME WOULD BE EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT FOR US TO SUBMIT TO CONGRESS. REGARDING THE STINGER, NEWSOM POINTED OUT THAT WE WERE STILL TRYING THIS OUT OURSELVES, AND IT IS NOT YET IN OUR OWN ARSENAL. WE WILL, HOWEVER, REVIEW BOTH THESE REQUESTS CLOSELY.

6. NEWSOM THANKED BIN SHAKER FOR JORDANIAN INTELLIGENCE WARNINGS OF POSSIBLE TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAEL COMING THROUGH JORDAN. SUCH INFORMATION IS VERY USEFUL AND IS A CLEAR SIGN OF JORDAN'S FORTHCOMING ATTITUDES.

7. NEWSOM THEN ASKED ABOUT JORDAN'S ASSISTANCE TO LIBYA IN MILITARY TRAINING. BIN SHAKER REITERATED WHAT HE HAD SAID IN RESPONSE TO DOD ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCGIFFERT'S SIMILAR QUESTION AT THE JMC ON JUNE 19: JORDAN INITIALLY SENT A TEAM TO STUDY LIBYAN TRAINING NEEDS IN RESPONSE TO A LIBYAN REQUEST, AND JORDAN NOW HAS SEVEN (SIC) INSTRUCTORS IN LIBYA'S MILITARY COLLEGE. BIN SHAKER STATED THAT JORDAN AGREED TO LIBYA'S REQUEST

ONLY AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION AND DID SO LEST JORDANIAN
REFUSAL MAKE LIBYA TURN TO THE SOVIET BLOC OR CUBA FOR
HELP. LP. VANCE

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NNN

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